

our government can make that provide as high a return on investment as scientific research and development.

Despite this, Federal investments in research and development are at an historic low, comprising merely 3.8 percent of the Federal budget—or 0.8 percent of the GDP.

In fact, over the last 3 years, Federal research and development expenditures have decreased by 16.3 percent, which is the steepest decline over a 3-year period since the end of the space race.

These results are an important reminder of the value of Federal investment in research and development. Without the proper investment in scientific research, we must expect fewer of these groundbreaking scientific discoveries, at least in the United States.

The greatest long-term threat that our country faces on both the military and economic fronts is the threat of losing our role as world leaders in innovation and in science and technology.

Nothing is more crucial to preserving that role than having adequate funding for fundamental and applied scientific research. The recent advances in cosmology are just one of many examples of the breadth of intellectual capital and state-of-the-art technology that the U.S. currently possesses.

As Congress determines how to allocate funding for these agencies in the coming year, with many proposing budgets that will cripple future investments in education and research, I urge my colleagues to capitalize on these discoveries and ensure that we are investing enough in research, science, and education.

Because of Federal investments in science, we have just looked significantly farther into the early universe than anyone has done before. This not only tells us about the birth of the universe, but it also gives us insight into our fundamental understanding of the laws of physics.

This discovery by the BICEP2 team has been globally recognized as one of the most important fundamental breakthroughs in science in our lifetimes, a landmark of American academic achievement that will live on in the science textbooks forever.

#### HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET PROPOSAL UNDERMINES AMERICA'S FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday night, I introduced legislation to provide an extension of emergency unemployment benefits that would extend the important safety net of unemployment benefits, unemployment insurance to over 2 million Americans who lost their benefits on December 28 and thereafter as a result of the failure of this body to act to protect those benefits.

Many of us, particularly on the Democratic side—and I know some on

the other side as well because they have expressed it—would have preferred that we had dealt with this question as we were dealing with the budget issues and the budget question that we faced at the end of last year, but we did not, so we are left now with the fact that we have some unfinished business.

On Monday evening, in a bipartisan fashion, the U.S. Senate enacted similar legislation. In fact, the bill that I introduced on Monday night was the precise language enacted on a bipartisan basis by the U.S. Senate.

Two million Americans are living right now with the fear of losing their homes, losing their cars, having their families split up because they don't have that basic need being met of a roof over a head and food on the table between their last jobs and their next jobs.

For typical workers in America, when they lose their jobs, it takes an average of 37 weeks. I know, in my home State, it is probably longer before they find their next opportunities. In Michigan, once one loses one's job, one has got 20 weeks of unemployment insurance. What happens to one after that is what we are dealing with today.

The fact that people go from one week to the next not knowing if they are going to be able to keep their families together and keep roofs over their heads is something that this Congress can do something about if it chooses to.

I know there are Members of the Republican Conference who are anxious to see this enacted because several put together a letter to the Speaker, asking that this issue be brought up immediately, and that is what I hope my colleagues will do—bring extended unemployment compensation, unemployment insurance to the floor, so that we can protect those workers who are trying to get from their last jobs to their next jobs without starting a cycle of poverty that could last generations.

There are some who say we don't need this because, number one, workers who are on unemployment don't want to work. I suppose there may be an exception or a myth that we could conjure up about an individual who is receiving unemployment compensation who doesn't want to work, but for those of you who believe that, come to my district or, better yet, go to your home district.

Talk to people in the unemployment lines and ask them if they would trade their situations today for meaningful work. I assure you that the vast majority, if not all of the people in that situation, would trade, in a minute, their situations for a real job with a decent wage.

There are some also who say that we shouldn't do this because it is not an emergency, that these are supposed to be emergency benefits. As far as I can see, it is not only an emergency here in Washington, but if you are about to lose your house or if you are about to

lose your car or if you don't have enough food on the table to feed your kids, for you, it is an emergency.

We represent those folks, and we ought to be thinking about them, and we ought to take this up.

So why is it that we need to do this in the first place? I think the Republicans and Democrats could agree that the economy is not growing at a rate to put all Americans back to work. We will acknowledge that. We will stipulate that, while there has been growth and while there has been private sector job creation, it is not enough.

We will probably disagree on the reasons behind that, but we can agree that the current economy is not enough to put these folks back to work. We should help them, but we should also do the things that it will take to get America back to work again.

Unfortunately, what we will deal with in the next couple of days is a budget that undermines economic growth, that undermines the kind of investments in the skills of our workforce by cutting job training, by cutting Pell grants, by cutting early childhood education—programs like Head Start—that actually change the trajectory for those individuals, that make them more capable and more able to get into the workforce in this competitive economy that we are in.

□ 1030

Rather than investing in our people, what this proposed Ryan budget would do is to cut those essential programs and not contribute to economic growth.

It also would cut important investments in infrastructure. Democrats and Republicans alike agree that we need to rebuild our infrastructure—our roads, our bridges, our rail systems, and our ports.

This budget takes us in the wrong direction.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Congress can come together around this question and realize that if, in the short term, we are going to deal with the crisis that families are facing, we will pass an unemployment extension, and, in the long term, we take the kind of steps that we need to rebuild our economy.

The budget proposed by Mr. RYAN that will be coming to the floor will take us in the wrong direction.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 31 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.